

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/941,237
Amendment and Response Dated June 4, 2004
In Reply to Office Action Dated March 23, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner has allowed claims 33 and 56, rejected claims 32, 34-37, 53, 54, 58 and 60, and withdrawn claims 26-30, 55, 57, 59, 61 and 62 from examination. Of the rejected claims, claim 37 was rejected only under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, while the others were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fink et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,510,066.

Applicant has reworded claim 37 to overcome the §112 rejection and rewritten it in independent form. While Applicant believes that the rejection under §103(a) over Fink et al. does not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness, that argument can be more effectively made in a divisional or continuing application. Accordingly, the remaining rejected and withdrawn claims are being canceled without prejudice to expedite the issuance of a patent claiming the direct and wax pattern methods.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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